

FREE HEARING TESTS

WorkSafeBC requires employers to arrange for annual hearing tests for all workers. Due to the mobile nature of our industries, many workers rarely, if ever, get hearing tests.

As most workers in our industries do not have a single employer, Actsafe sponsors hearing testing. But we depend on employers to make sure workers get the required tests every year.

At the beginning of a production, determine whether some or all of your staff have had their annual hearing test. If anyone needs a test, please call Reliable Mobile Hearing Testing at 604.596.8414.

The production company will never see an invoice; Reliable Mobile Hearing Testing will send the bill directly to Actsafe.

RESOURCES

Actsafe has a number of industry-specific publications available for download on our website.

Visit our online library to download hearing posters, books, manuals, guides and infosheets:

<http://www.actsafe.ca/category/resources/library/hearing>

Actsafe is dedicated to the promotion of health and safety in British Columbia's motion picture and performing arts industries. Our role is to provide arts workers and employers with the necessary support to ensure everyone goes home safely at the end of the day.

Actsafe is governed by the industries it represents. We operate through two standing committees that represent the motion picture and performing arts communities. Membership on these committees includes both employer and worker representatives.

Our mandate includes providing subsidized training and free industry-related communication, education, services and advice.

Full course descriptions and upcoming dates are available at www.actsafe.ca.

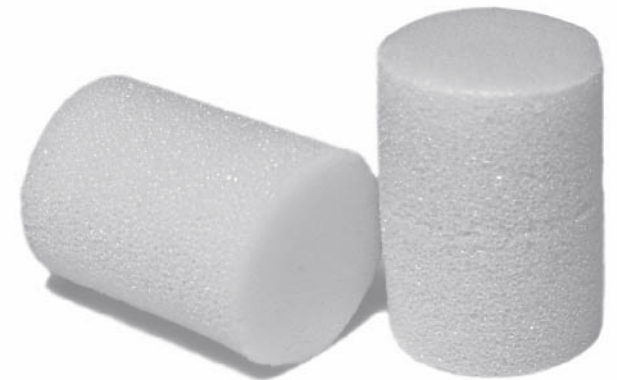
For more information about Actsafe courses, services or for general information call us at 604.733.4682 or email info@actsafe.ca.

Visit us online:

www.actsafe.ca

T 604.733.4682 / 1.888.229.1455
F 604.733.4692

Hearing Conservation and Protection: Who's responsible?





The team
approach to
hearing protection
under WorkSafeBC
legislation

Workers

Workers have four main responsibilities.

1. USE CORRECTLY

If you are required to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), wear it in accordance with the training and instruction you have been given. Do not use the equipment outside of the work area if doing so would be hazardous.

2. INSPECT

Inspect all equipment before you use it.

3. REPORT

If you find an imperfection or malfunction, report it to your supervisor or employer right away.

4. MAINTAIN

If you're assigned responsibility for cleaning, maintaining or storing PPE, do the job in accordance with the training and instruction you have been given. See OHS Regulations 8.3 (1) a and 8.5 for more information.

Employers

Employers have five main responsibilities.

1. PROGRAM

Ensure workers are not exposed to noise levels above exposure limits. The limits are 85 dBA daily noise exposure level and 140 dBC peak sound level. If workers might be exposed to noise that exceeds exposure limits, develop a hearing conservation program that includes these elements:

- Noise measurement
- Engineered noise control
- Hearing tests
- Posting of noise hazard areas
- Education & training
- Hearing protection
- Annual review

It's important to bring in a consultant to measure noise levels if you do not know whether hearing hazards exist. A list of consultants specific to our industry can be found at: <http://www.actsafe.ca/category/resources/consultants/occupational>

Actsafe has posters and other resources available. Call us at 604.733.4682 to order a colour version or download them from our website at: <http://www.actsafe.ca/category/resources/library/hearing>

2. SOLVE

Investigate options for engineered noise control and apply one or more solutions to cut workplace noise and keep exposure within allowable limits.

3. REDUCE

If you can't reduce noise levels to keep exposure within allowable limits, reduce noise to the lowest possible level, post warning signs where hazards exist, provide hearing protection for affected workers in accordance with *CSA Standard Z94.2-02*, and ensure that people working in a posted hazard area are wearing hearing protection and using the equipment properly.

4. TEST

When you hire any worker who will or might be working in a noisy environment, provide a hearing test as soon as you can. The test must take place within six months, and you need to have it updated at least once a year. The test must be administered by a WorkSafeBC Board-authorized tester. Actsafe offers free testing through Reliable Mobile Hearing Testing. Call them at 604.596.8414 to make arrangements.

5. RECORD

As long as you employ a worker, you must keep records of their annual hearing test results. Due to the mobile nature of our industries, Actsafe manages these records on your behalf. However, where applicable, employers should keep records of noise exposure measurement results (see section 7.3) and the education and training you've provided to workers.

Supervisors

It is the responsibility of every supervisor to comply with the Regulations. In addition, you have three main responsibilities:

1. MAKE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

You must ensure that all workers exposed to noise above exposure limits have appropriate PPE available.

2. ENSURE CORRECT USE

Legislation also specifies that it's your job to ensure workers are wearing the equipment properly.

3. MAINTAIN

Finally, you're responsible for keeping all required equipment clean, inspected, maintained and stored properly.

For more information, please refer to *B.C. Reg. 382/2004, effective January 1, 2005*.